MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know when he called for the reports?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): About 10 or 15 days ago when I received the question.

Fee concession to Muslim Girls.

933. ***MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether Muslim girls are exempted from paying fee in all the schools of the State?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether Government are aware that Muslim girls are far behind in point of education?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The question is vague, Sir.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Far behind the others.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) They do not lag behind the depressed classes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Sir, I did not ask any question about the depressed classes. I am only concerned with Muslim girls.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They are admittedly backward in education.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know why Government are not allowing fee concession to Muslim girls in non-departmental schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In non-departmental schools, the fee concession scheme is optional. Government cannot under the present rules compel any manager to adopt the fee concession scheme. But invariably they give fee concession.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether Government are aware that the managers of non-departmental schools relise full or half fee from Muslim girls?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As I said, Sir, I have received no complaints on the matter. I think they receive the same concession in non-departmental schools as in the departmental schools.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): The answer to the question is in the negative. Then, how can I take it that they get the concession?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The answer is in the negative because in the case of non-departmental schools the managers have liberty in the matter.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether the Education Reforms Committee have recommended the giving of full fee concession in all schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I presume so, Sir.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): What action have Government taken in the matter?

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MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The honourable member, who is a member of the Advisory Board, is very well aware that a Sub-Committee is sitting on the subject. They have not yet made a report.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*): Sir, I am not a member of the Sub-Committee. I do not know what they have done.

PRESIDENT: However, the question will go before the Committee.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether there is any Government order asking for the levy of fees from Muslim girls?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There is a Government order sanctioning full exemption from payment of fees from Muslim girls in Departmental schools.

Village Reading Rooms.

294. *MR. E. K. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many Village Reading Rooms have been established recently throughout the State;

(*b*) whether they will be pleased to place on the table a list showing the exact value of books, newspapers and furniture allotted to each of the Reading Rooms;

(*c*) the necessity for the Village Reading Room Committees;

(*d*) the powers and authorities of these Committees on the Reading Rooms;

(*e*) whether they realise any monthly fee from the people who read in the Reading Rooms; and

(*f*) whether the depressed classes are exempted from the liability to give monthly fee to the Reading Rooms?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) 60.

(*b*) Rs. 180 for books and periodicals and Rs. 100 for articles of furniture.

(*c*) To assist the Honorary Librarian in his work.

(*d*) Not yet defined.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) In view of the answer to part (*e*), this question does not arise.

Protection of depressed classes.

295. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent till the 1st Meenam 1111, out of the sum sanctioned for the protection of depressed classes, during 1111?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Rs. 3,512-9-2.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): May I know how much money was spent to improve the housing conditions of the depressed classes?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No money has actually been spent. But sanction has been given for opening a colony for depressed classes at Kulathur.

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